

Spring 1-15-2009

ENG 3703-001: American Literature, 1900-1950

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Recommended Citation

Worthington, Marjorie, "ENG 3703-001: American Literature, 1900-1950" (2009). *Spring 2009*. 113.
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ENGLISH 3703 – AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1900-1950

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
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 Phone: 581-5214
 Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu
 Class: Coleman Hall 3691, TR, 8:00-9:15am
 Office Hours: TR 10-11am, 12:30-2:00pm, or by appt.

Texts: *Heath Anthology, Vol. II, 3rd Edition*
 William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Garden of Eden*
 Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*
 Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
 Jean Toomer, *Cane*

OBJECTIVES:

- To read, discuss and analyze representative texts of the early twentieth century.
- To familiarize ourselves with differing critical stances on some of these works.
- To learn about and engage in literary research.
- To hone skills related to writing literary analyses.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Short Essays: Over the course of the semester, you will write five one-page *single-spaced* essays. They should cover the reading assigned for the particular day on which they are due. Although short, these essays should be focused and **thesis-driven**. It is my hope that these papers will: 1) help you keep up with the reading; and 2) generate interesting ideas for discussion. For that reason, you **must be in class** and **must contribute to class discussion that day** (in other words, speak up) in order to get credit for the response. **YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

Short Essay Groups (by last name):

[Group A: A-Do];[Group B: Dp-He];[Group C: Hf-Mi];[Group D: Mj-Ri]; [Group E: Rj-Z]

Critical Analysis: Critical articles about the texts we are reading can provide new and different insights into the works. Consult the appropriate databases and find three articles about one of the novel-length texts on the syllabus. Write a 5-6-page summary and analysis of those articles. Address the following questions: What is each article's main argument concerning the novel? Is that argument valid? What salient points do these novels fail to address? Which article makes the strongest point? Be sure to make copies of these articles (or print them from the database) to turn in with your final essay. **NOTE:** By "critical articles" I mean articles found in academic journals or books, NOT encyclopedias, Cliffs or Sparks notes, or web sources like Wikipedia. Please do not hesitate to see me if you are having trouble finding articles; we can work with the databases together.

Analytical Essay: For this assignment, choose a text or author other than the one you choose for your critical analysis and write an essay about it. You can expand upon the ideas in one of your short essays, turning it into a long essay by adding discussion and further evidence from the text. The most difficult part of this assignment will be determining a suitable topic and thesis for this essay. I am purposely not providing topic ideas: you will explore possible ideas yourself, choose one and flesh it out in an essay. Your paper should have a clear and focused thesis statement and should make some kind of compelling **argument**. You will be graded on the quality of this argument and the extent to which you support this

argument with evidence from the text. You should use outside articles to aid you now that you know how to find them and integrate them into your own writing. Using outside sources presents another challenge: finding outside support for your thesis without simply repeating those of the articles.

Final Exam: The final exam will test both basic knowledge of the texts and class discussion, and your ability to understand and analyze what you have read. It will include essays and some short answer and possibly, a take-home aspect.

POLICIES:

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your **final** grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

Conferences: The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Cell Phones should be turned OFF before the start of class. This should go without saying.

Grade Breakdown:

Short Responses	25%
Critical Essay	25%
Analytical/Research Essay	25%
Final Exam	25%

ENG 3703 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan.	13 T	Introduction
	15 Th	James, pp. 449-452, 498-511, <i>The Beast in the Jungle</i>
	20 T	No Class, MLK DAY
A	22 Th	pp. 511-end, <i>The Beast in the Jungle</i> , Chopin, pp. 527-533
B	27 T	Booker T. Washington 916-931, 935-943, DuBois 943-959
C	29 Th	Edith Wharton, <i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Chaps. 1-7
D Feb.	3 T	Edith Wharton, <i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Chaps. 8-19
E	5 Th	Edith Wharton, <i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Chaps. 20-25

A 10 T Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*, Chaps. 26-end
B 12 Th Stein 1255-1264, Pound 1215-1221

C 17 T Eliot 1397-1403, Lowell 1241-1251
D 19 Th Wm. Carlos Williams 1267-1277, Lowell 1241-1251

E 24 T Jean Toomer, *Cane*
A 26 Th Langston Hughes 1611-1621, Countee Cullen

B Mar. 3 T *The Sound and the Fury*, April Seventh, 1928
C 5 Th *The Sound and the Fury*, June Second, 1910

D 10 T *The Sound and the Fury*, April Sixth, 1928
E 12 Th *The Sound and the Fury*, April Eighth, 1928

SPRING BREAK

24 T *Eyes Watching God* Chaps. 1-8 **Critical Analysis Due**
A 26 Th *Eyes Watching God* Chaps. 9-14

B 31 T *Eyes Watching God* Chaps. 15-end
C Apr. 2 Th Susan Glaspell, H.D. 1340-1349

D 7 T F. Scott Fitzgerald 1432-1434, 1470-1484, Marianne Moore
E 9 Th E.E. Cummings, Robert Frost

A 14 T Willa Cather, Wallace Stevens
B 16 Th John Steinbeck 1916-1917, 1925-1933, Chinese Immigrant Poetry 2001-2009

21 T *Garden of Eden* Chaps.1-6 **Analytical Essay due**
C 13 Th *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 7-12

D 28 T *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 13-26
E 30 Th *Garden of Eden* Chaps. 27-end

May 7 Thursday, 8:00-10:00am FINAL EXAM